

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13, 17, 20-25 and 27-33 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claim 27 has been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicant extends his appreciation to Examiner Ou for his courtesy in conducting a telephone interview with Applicant's representative on April 19, 2010. Applicant's representative proposed amendments to claim 27 in an effort to clarify distinguishing features of the invention, particularly relating to the outwardly projecting ridges of the mesh material and the internal support.

Claims 13, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,356,432 to Rutkow et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the grounds of rejection, independent claim 27 has been amended to recite that the external mesh material wall has three outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges which provide the plug overall with a generally closed triangular cross-sectional shape. Additionally, claim 27 recites that the plug comprises an internal support extending into contact with respective interiors of at least outermost portions of the outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges . . .” Support for this subject matter can be in, for example, FIGS. 1, 3 and 4. At least this subject matter is lacking in the Rutkow patent. Significantly, the structure in Rutkow is not remotely provided with an overall generally closed triangular cross-sectional shape. Moreover, the “internal support webs (14 or 28)” referenced in the Office Action do not extend and are incapable of extending into contact with any outwardly projecting ridge or bulge in the Rutkow structure. Rather, with reference to Fig. 2 in Rutkow, the internal support web at best may contact inwardly projecting ridges of the Rutkow structure.

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Since at least these features of the invention are lacking in the Rutkow patent, Applicant submits that the rejection is misplaced.

With regard to the dependent claims, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____ /Alan M. Kagen/
Alan M. Kagen
Reg. No. 36,178

AMK:jls
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100